

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2021

Robert J. Fenton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Fenton,

I write to request your urgent attention to the concerning low rate of COVID-19 vaccinations within Orange County, New York, and request you establish a FEMA-community-based vaccination site in the county to help improve access to the vaccine.

Currently, only 10 percent of New Yorkers in Orange County have received a first or second dose vaccination, which places Orange County amongst the lowest rate of vaccination within New York State counties. Neighboring counties, including Westchester County, have found success with the state-FEMA community-based vaccination sites, but appointments are restricted to those certain zip-codes or communities, preventing access for Orange County resident.

Orange County is diverse, with populous city centers, sprawling farmland, and rural areas. Many of my constituents are forced to travel for their medical care. Additionally, Orange County is home to a large number of veterans, many of whom are unable to get vaccinated at the nearby VA Medical Center because – despite having served – they do not qualify based on income restrictions set by the VA. There are several communities within Orange County that are historically underserved in care and are at greater risk of going unvaccinated without a robust vaccination center.

Given the clear need for a vaccination site, I urge you to act with New York State health authorities to create a FEMA community-based vaccination site within Orange County. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Steve Neuhaus
Orange County Executive

_____/s/_____
Mike Martucci
NY State Senator

_____/s/_____
James Skoufis
NY State Senator

_____/s/_____
Torrance Harvey
Mayor of Newburgh

_____/s/_____
Joe Destefano
Mayor of Middletown

_____/s/_____
Brian Maher
Montgomery Supervisor

_____/s/_____
Richard Randazzo
Cornwall Supervisor

_____/s/_____
Frank Dendanto
Wallkill Supervisor